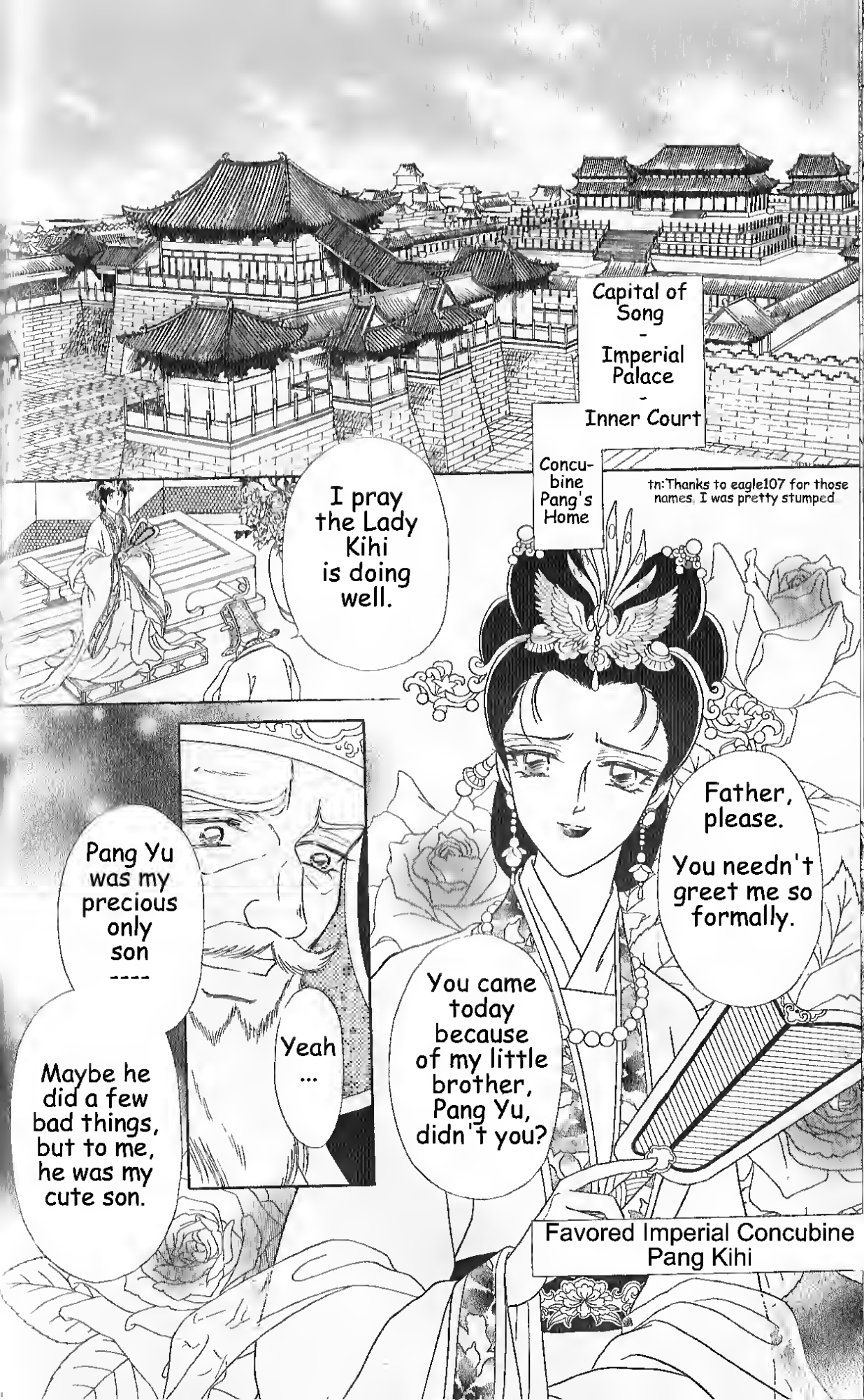
Story of the ingratious gift
第二話
Chapter 2
恩仇記


Capital of Song - Imperial Palace - Inner Court
Concubine Pang's Home
tn:Thanks to eagle107 for those names. I was pretty stumped
I pray the Lady Kihi is doing well.
Father, please.
You needn't greet me so formally.
You came today because of my little brother, Pang Yu, didn't you?
Yeah ...
Pang Yu was my precious only son ----
Maybe he did a few bad things, but to me, he was my cute son.
Favored Imperial Concubine Pang Kihi

Even though I am the Grand Tutor, I lowered my head to him and asked him---!
And then that ---
The Kaihou Justice Bao exposed my son's crimes and had him executed!
Because Bao only handed down a judgement according to the law.
I pity the the loss of your heir, but you shouldn't bear a grudge against Bao Zheng.
Today, I came to the Palace to petition the Emperor for Bao's dismissal, but ---
!?
"In other words, the Hou family uses their power for personal grudges." It would cause us to become notorious.
If you were to plead for the faultless Bao's dismissal, then others would say,
Isn't that good
He said that first and I couldn't say anything

Pang Yu was executed and our family completely lost face.
Worse, Bao Zheng has been praised by the commoners as "Blue Sky Bao" and his popularity is soaring.
I didn't beg the Emperor for my brother's life.
Because others would say things like "It's good to have the favor of the Emperor..." It would be obscene.
Gu - squeeze
They've gone so far as to call him a hero.
It doesn't help clear our Pang family's disgrace.
Somehow, Bao Zheng must be completely disgraced!!
What ...
Do you have a good plan?
But now, others are regretful over his death.
Is "That" sword still in our possession ?
Huh? Oh, yes
Right now it is sealed, but what in the world ...?

Present that sword to Prince Higoro.
Do it adoringly as if you were giving it to him in place of my brother.
With just that, we can create Bao's downfall.
秦王府
Give this sword to me ---?
Yes, I've had it for some time and it's a waste for it to be unused.
I thought this grand sword would be suitable for a master of military arts such as yourself.

Then I take this sword with gratitude.
ni - leer
Great sword, huh?
sha
It doesn't really look all that special ...
It has a strange sparkle that fascinates the heart of men.
Oho!
This is ---
This is amazing!
This is a Great Sword of Great Swords!

When you look at it, the soul ....
seems like it is being drawn out.
Some-one ...
Come help us ~~~~ !!!
The Lord Prince has gone mad.
He's killing people left and right, one after another.
No way !?
The ...
The Lord Prince has ...
zee wheeze
What's wrong?
had

Lord Prince !!
!!
Zashu
giro
Lord ... Prince ...?
This is ... What have you done !?
!!

byu
byun
Lord Prince
Has he lost it?
Sanity
chya
Kin!
Forgive the insult!
Ba!

I ask that you come with me to the Kaihou Office
!
chaki
Lord Prince ...
ow ...
biri (prickling or numb)
!?
... Zhan Zhao ?
I was .... what in the world ....?
It can't be
!!
I ... did ...!?

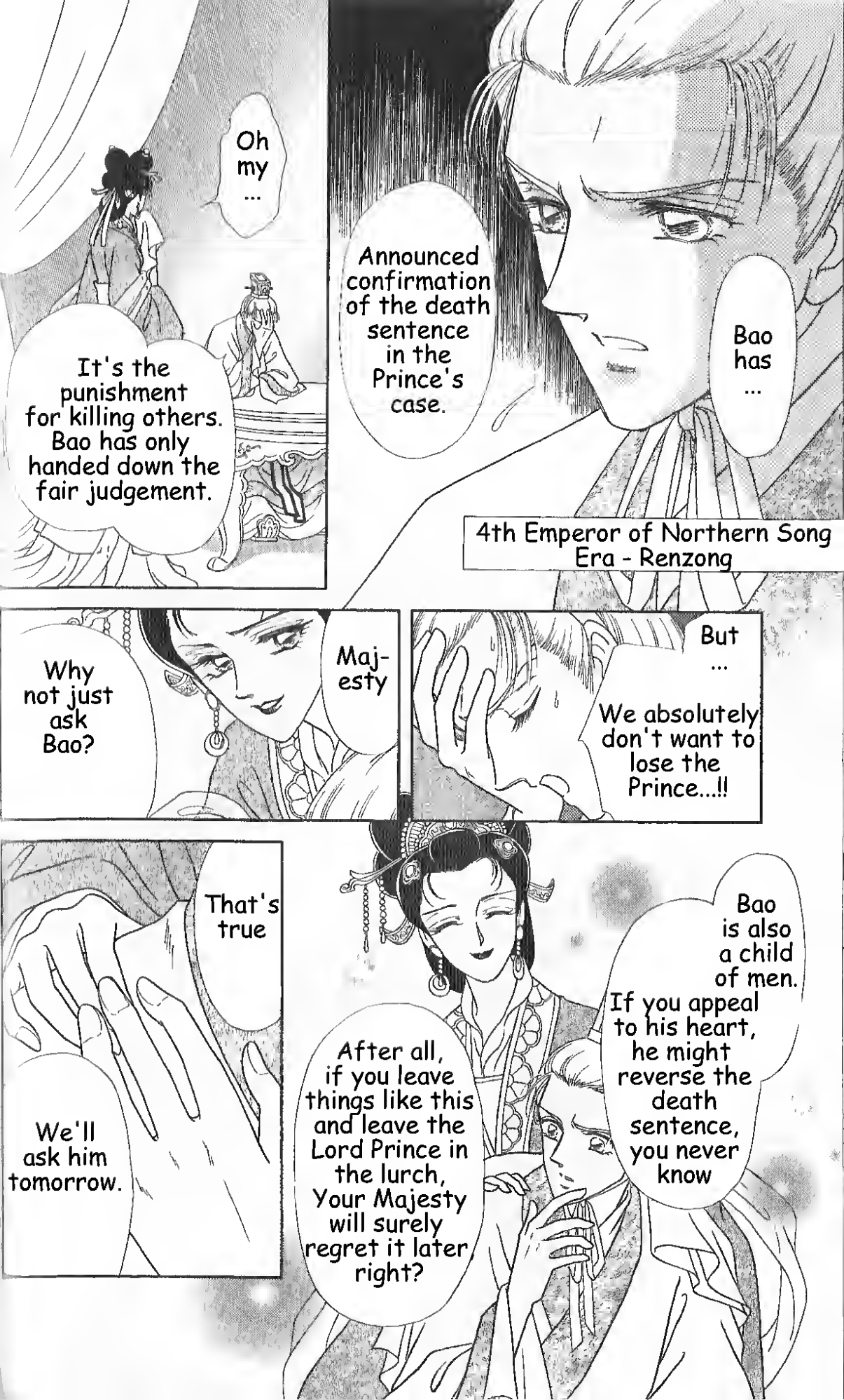
You don't remember?
府封閉
I only remember pulling out the sword to look at it.
But after that, until Zhan Zhao caught me, I don't remember a single thing that happened.
In other words, the sword captures it's weilders and has them kill others...?
We have heard reports before from other places of items that steal men's minds.
Probably this is also one of those "Youken" (Bewitching Blade).
Bewit-ching Blade, hmm?
tn: after this I just say Bewitching Blade.

However, broken, it is nothing but iron trash.
We've examined it closely, but there is no reaction.
We, therefore, have no way to verify that this was, indeed, a Bewitching Sword.
Presently, the sword is broken. When it broke, the Lord Prince was able to return to his senses.
I broke the sword, an important piece of evidence.
You have my deepest apologies.
The Lord Prince is a person who clearly understands morality.
He wouldn't lie during testimony.
If you hadn't, I would have killed a great deal more people, right?
No ...
My Lord ....
With my soul caught by the Bewitching Blade, I was quite evil. Zhan Zhao, don't worry yourself over this matter.

Bao
However ---
It doesn't matter if I had lost my mind. It's a fact that I killed people.
I am prepared for execution.
However, the Emperor ... isn't likely to forgive that I've been executed.
Because he is a very passionate person ----
明廉正公
Everyone knows this - he is not the previous Emperor's own child.
Until he was 6 years old, he grew up in a common family of the royal household. We grew up as friends and siblings.
But the previous Emperor's dead Crown Prince was the same age.
He chose the next Crown Prince, and welcomed him as an adopted child.

But, if you become Emperor, you can do whatever you want.
Absolutely NOT!!
If people have these sorts of scary feelings, I don't want to be the Crown Prince!
But just after that, Choutei changed his mind about being the Heir. He was targeted by an assassin
If I hadn't protected him, he would be dead.
If it's you, I think you can be the type of excellent Emperor everyone yearns for.
It's rough, but you can save people
You can even make a world where everyone can safely and happily live.
But what if I get attacked again like today?
Then just like today, I'll protect you. Beause I can definately become stronger to protect you.
Everything I am is in order to protect him.
And, just like I promised, I've always been there to protect him. He was 13 when he suceeded the throne, and once again his life was targeted. That time also, I protected him.
... and yet ...

As things are now, I've pulled His Majesty's legs out from under him. I have become the source of evil ...!!
Bao Zheng ... no .... Justice Bao
With this, you understand, right?
What I want more than anything ....
Lord Prince ...
Your Majesty ...
What is wrong?


Oh my ...
It's the punishment for killing others. Bao has only handed down the fair judgement.
Announced confirmation of the death sentence in the Prince's case.
Bao has ...
4th Emperor of Northern Song Era - Renzong
Why not just ask Bao?
Maj-esty
But ...
We absolutely don't want to lose the Prince...!!
That's true
We'll ask him tomorrow.
After all, if you leave things like this and leave the Lord Prince in the lurch, Your Majesty will surely regret it later right?
Bao is also a child of men. If you appeal to his heart, he might reverse the death sentence, you never know

If Bao ignores the plea on the Prince's behalf...
The Emperor, furious, will demand his resignation.
On the other hand, if he doesn't ignore the plea, he will lose his righteousness and his own sense of justice will force him to resign.
And now the trap is set
hu laugh
If that doesn't sully the Kaihou Official,
then it's still possible to send assissins to bury him in the night.
His loss would be a great blow to the Kingdom. We would like you to show mercy in his case.
It doesn't matter what happens, Bao Zheng is done for.
Bao Zheng,
The Prince is a gifted and popular man. He is also one of Our closest supporters.

I am sorry. I can't do that.
!...
WHY !?
Your Majesty, if you ignore the law for personal emotions, you'll lose the people's trust and you'll lose prestige.
The country would return to the upset and disorder we came from.
Then, you want Us to leave the Prince hanging?
The Prince is the benefactor of Our life!
You want Us to become an ungrateful, cold hearted person!?
I understand Your Majesty's feelings, but please also understand the Lord Prince's feelings.

To continue protecting me.
The Prince ... promised me!
A lie
His Lordship chose death.
You absolutely may not execute the Prince!
Bao Zheng! This is an Imperial Order!
ENOUGH!
How can Emperor who can't even save his only benefactor save the hundreds of thousand of people in his country!?
Majesty, please calm your emotions and reconsider.
If you do that, you should be able to understand the Lord Prince's feelings!

We didn't think you were this cold of a human.
Your Majesty ---!!!
It's enough to formally demand you turn in your Prefectural Seat.
Confine yourself under House Arrest!
What do we do from here on...

Zhen Zhao ...
Did you forget why you became a Government Official?
Doing that sort of thing won't make me any happier.
If Lord Bao is dismissed, then I also will resign.
It's His Majesty
And anyway, the one I'm worried about right now isn't myself.
That is what the Lord Prince was pointing out.
Personally, I've given up on showing His Majesty the way through discussion.
The Emperor is a kind person.
Because of it, there are times when his heart easily bleeds.

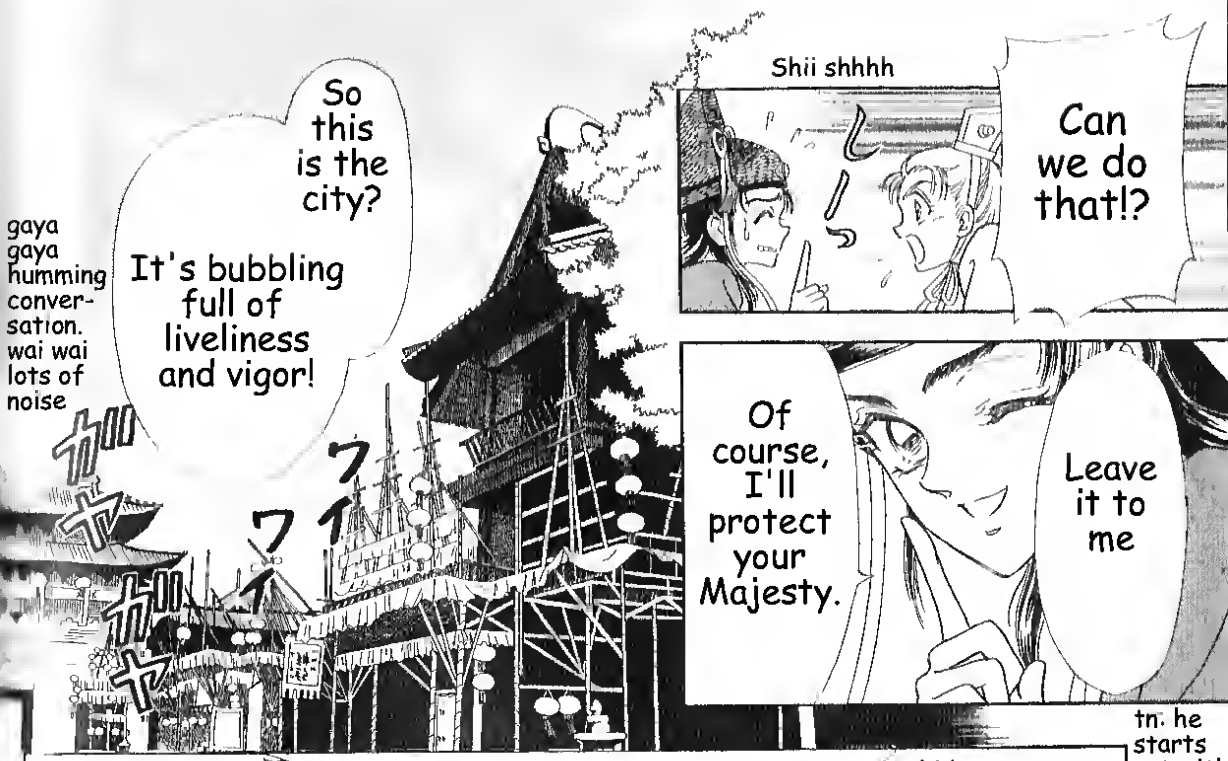
---
but...
I can't even tell His Majesty that.
How to get around House Arrest ...
Shall I go?
Right now, His Majesty is caught up in his personal feelings.
It would be best if he could come to think about the people's feelings....
!!
It's pretty easy to allow him to hear their feelings.
Getting him to think about their feelings is difficult, but ----
That's true.
If it's you... you might be able to.

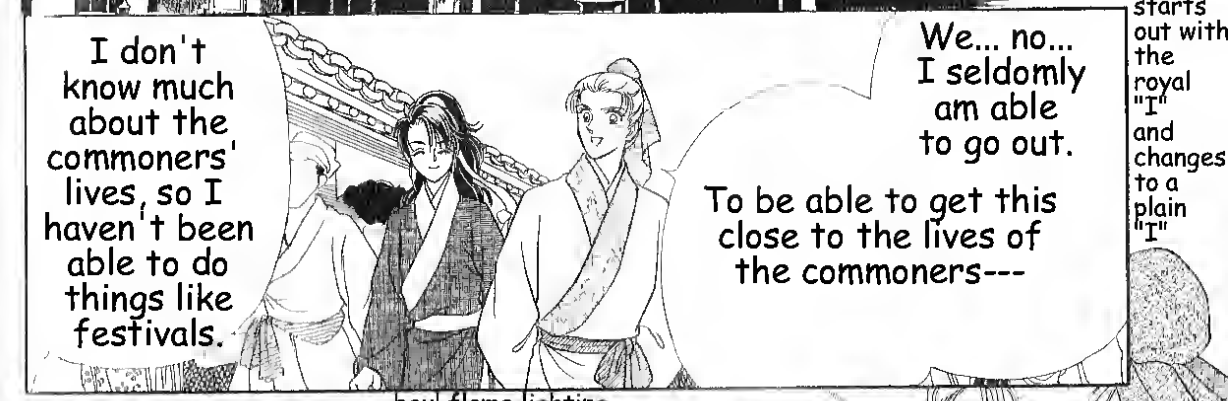
You may not go further in.
Why !?
He is busy with various important things.
Are you going to ask him to take back Bao's dismissal?
Grand Tutor Pang!?
hun hmph
It seems the Emperor's King Cat is acting like Bao Zheng's pet dog.
Give up.
His Majesty has taken my advice and won't meet with you.
ni leer
I see.
In other words, it's a problem for him if I influence the Emperor into a change of heart.
personally keeping an eye out
Well then, I shall come again tomorrow

So everthing was a trap to cause Lord Bao's fall?
And that means he also knowingly presented the Bewitching Sword to the Prince
What a dirty trick
fun - laugh
Gu - squeeze
I'd be able to expose Grand Tutor Pang's plot---!
Damn... if I hadn't broken the Bewitching Sword
No... before that, for now
I must meet with the Emperor
Who's there?

No ....
You are my King Cat
Sneaking about is one of the things you do
Zhan Zhao!? Where did you come from!?
Please forgive my insolence for entering without permission.
That is Your Majesty's choice.
On that matter, nothing problematic will come from my lips.
pui - rude/sudden
プイッ
However, if it is about Bao Zheng, I don't have ears that will listen.
For example-- Would you care to dress up in disguise as commoners and do some sightseeing around the city?
!?
So I came to invite you to do something to change your mood.
Really, the mood isn't ....
tn: not that easy to change
Just that, these past few days, there have been nothing but unpleasant things and your mood would be less than excellent, I thought
koso

* tn: pffft. Someone's lived in a castle too long. XD

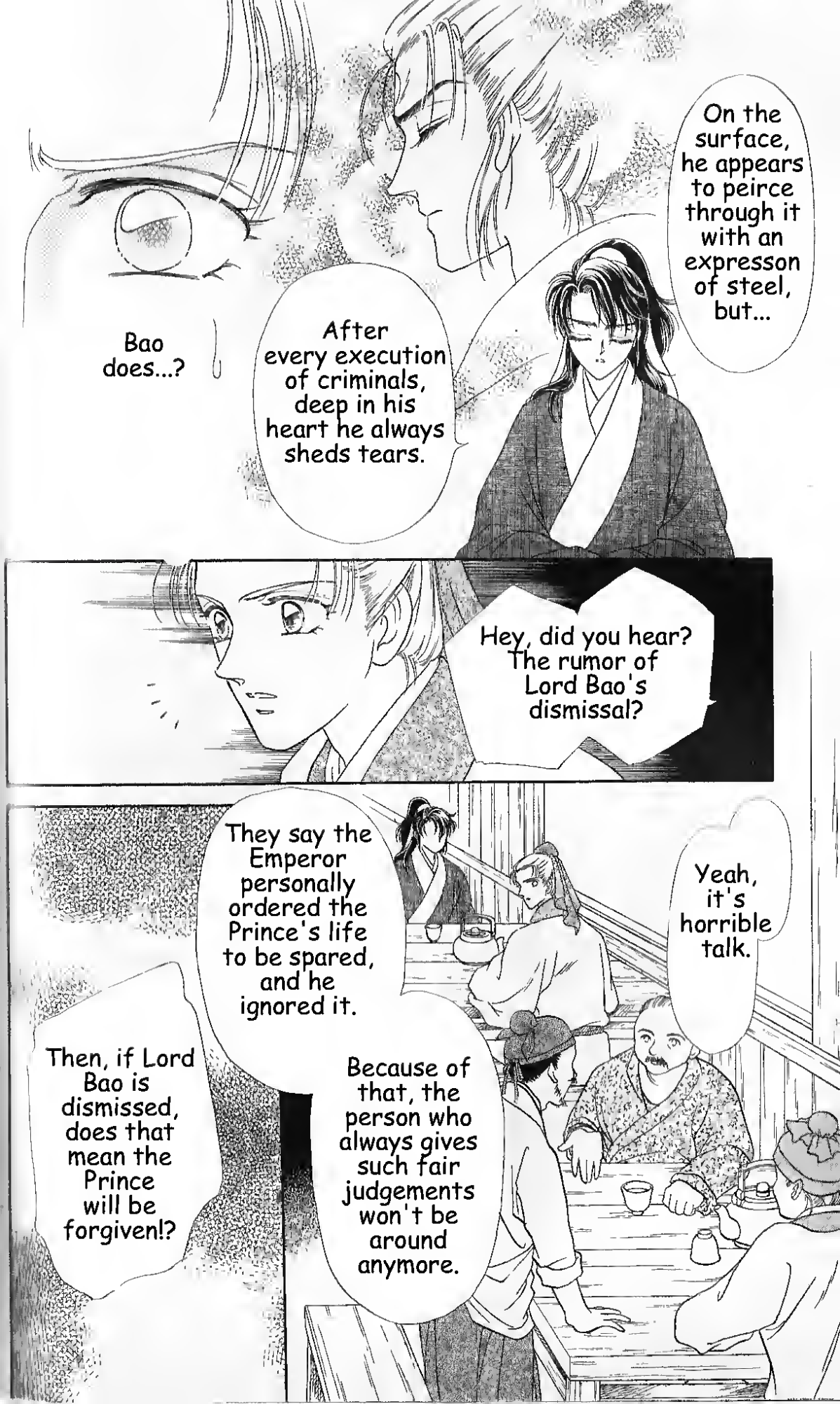

Shii shhhh
Can we do that!?
So this is the city?
It's bubbling full of liveliness and vigor!
gaya gaya humming conversation. wai wai lots of noise
ガヤガヤ
ワイワイ
Of course, I'll protect your Majesty.
Leave it to me


I don't know much about the commoners' lives, so I haven't been able to do things like festivals.
We... no... I seldomly am able to go out.
To be able to get this close to the lives of the commoners---
tn: he starts out with the royal "I" and changes to a plain "I"

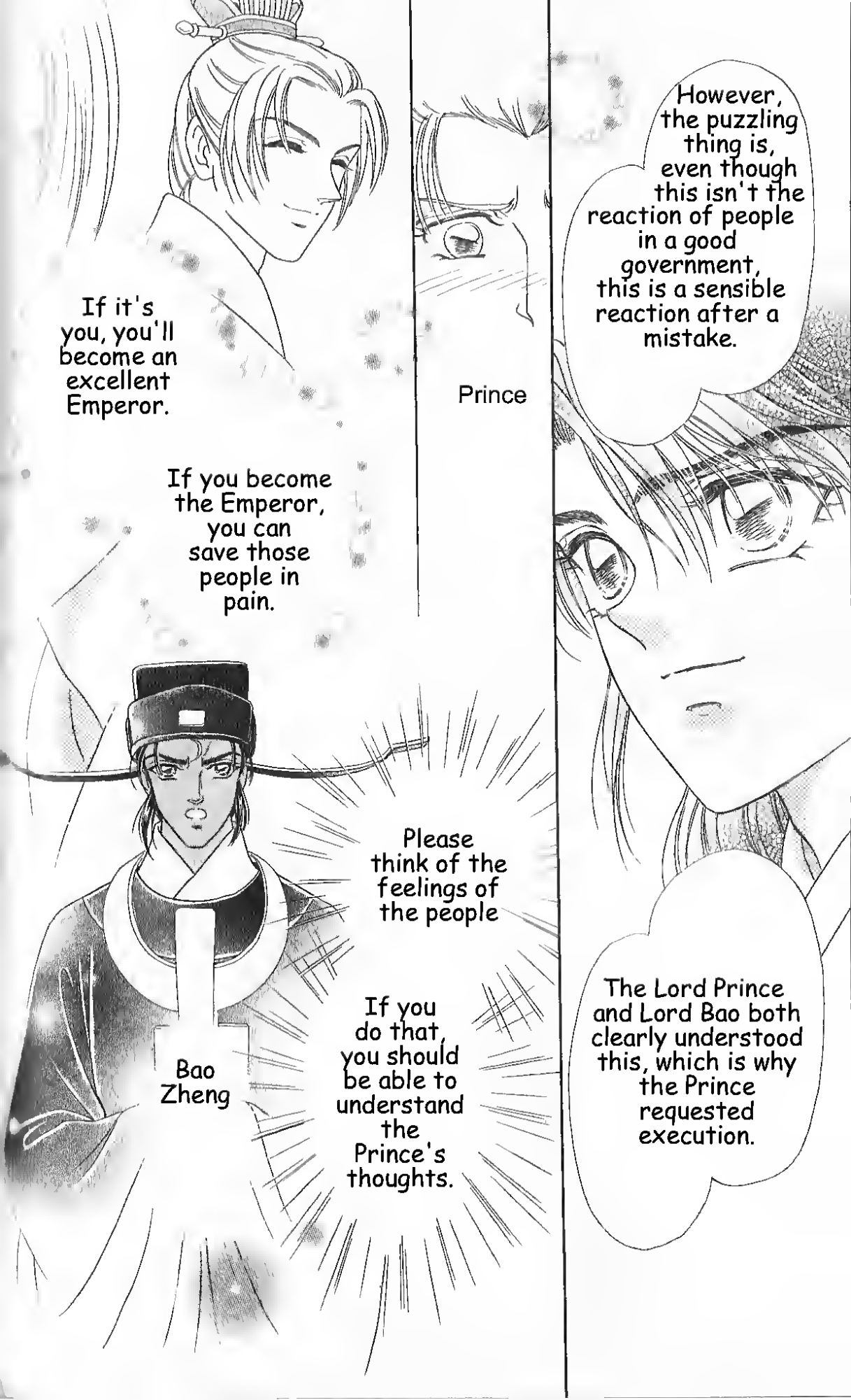
It's been a long time since I had this much fun.
I'd like to say thanks. ♡
What is that?
That is Shoukoku Temple's bell sounding.
茶
tea
goon - (big) bell ring
Temple Shoukoku ....
Previously, together with the Prince, I asked the Goddess of Mercy Bodhisattva at Shoukoku Temple
In order to make a place where the people live safe and secure
What do I do?

That night ....
I dreamt of a tall man clothed in black who would save the people.
When I woke, I painted a picture and commanded a minister to find him.
That person was Bao Zheng.
Bao has come to more than exceed my expectations. I was so happy that the Heavens found me worthy enough to give us someone who would work for the sake of Myself and the people.
That is incorrect.
.....
However, this recent event is making me rethink that. The law is the most important thing to him! He's a cold-blooded man who doesn't understand a thing of human sentimentality or emotions---
More than anyone, Lord Bao is a deeply empathetic person.
Even in this situation, he has been agonizing over you, the Prince, and the victims.

Undoubtedly --
Giving the Death Penalty to the bewitched Lord Prince is too severe.
really
koto
And he wanted to help the Prince. He also understands Your Majesty's feelings.
But if he bent the law and forgave the Lord Prince ...
How would the people feel?
And then---
What about the feelings of the Prince, who ended up hurting others?
What of the anger of those killed so meaning-lessly?
Their families ?
After seriously considering and struggling with all these questions, only then did Lord Bao hand down the judgement.

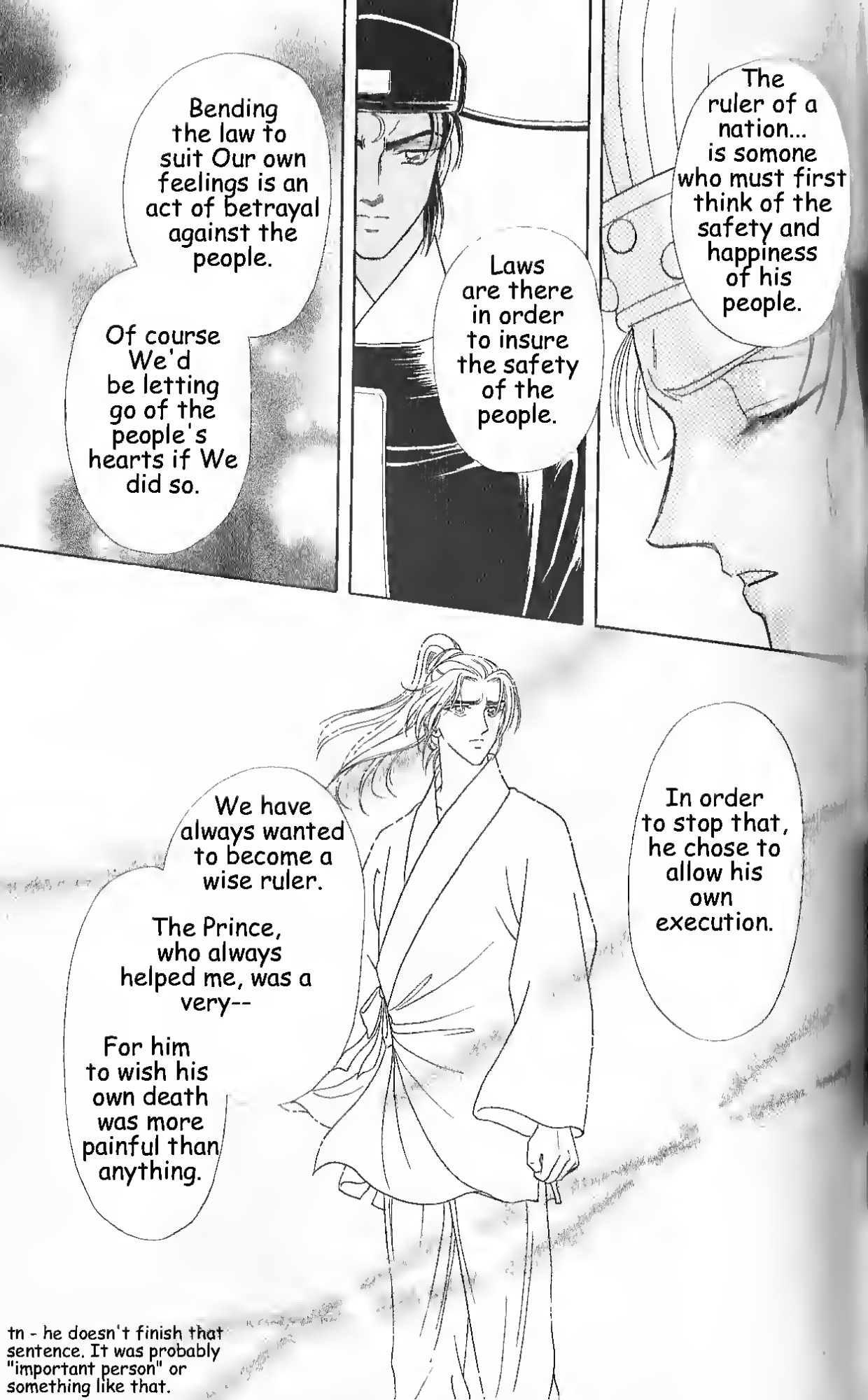

On the surface, he appears to peirce through it with an expresson of steel, but...
After every execution of criminals, deep in his heart he always sheds tears.
Bao does...?
Hey, did you hear? The rumor of Lord Bao's dismissal?
They say the Emperor personally ordered the Prince's life to be spared, and he ignored it.
Yeah, it's horrible talk.
Then, if Lord Bao is dismissed, does that mean the Prince will be forgiven!?
Because of that, the person who always gives such fair judgements won't be around anymore.

Don't bullshit me!
Didn't the Prince kill all of Chou's family? And what about that pregnant woman who lost her child?
And then there's the Yoo family, where the only survivor was the old man asleep in bed.
He doesn't even have the will to live anymore.
Your Majesty ...
...no way...
Even though I'm always working for and concerned about the people...
My own feelings... are you saying that nothing of what I've worked towards has reached them?
Zhan Zhao, is this really what the people are saying?
And I respected the Emperor when he nominated someone like Lord Bao to public office
What a ripoff!
In the end, he turned out to be unjust.* Isn't this like he's saying it doesn't matter what happens to us commoners?
The people don't know Your Majesty's personality. There's no way for them to correctly judge you.
tn: i.e. 'yes'
*tn: the guy literally says "cloudy sky" which is a reference to the nickname "blue sky" for Bao.

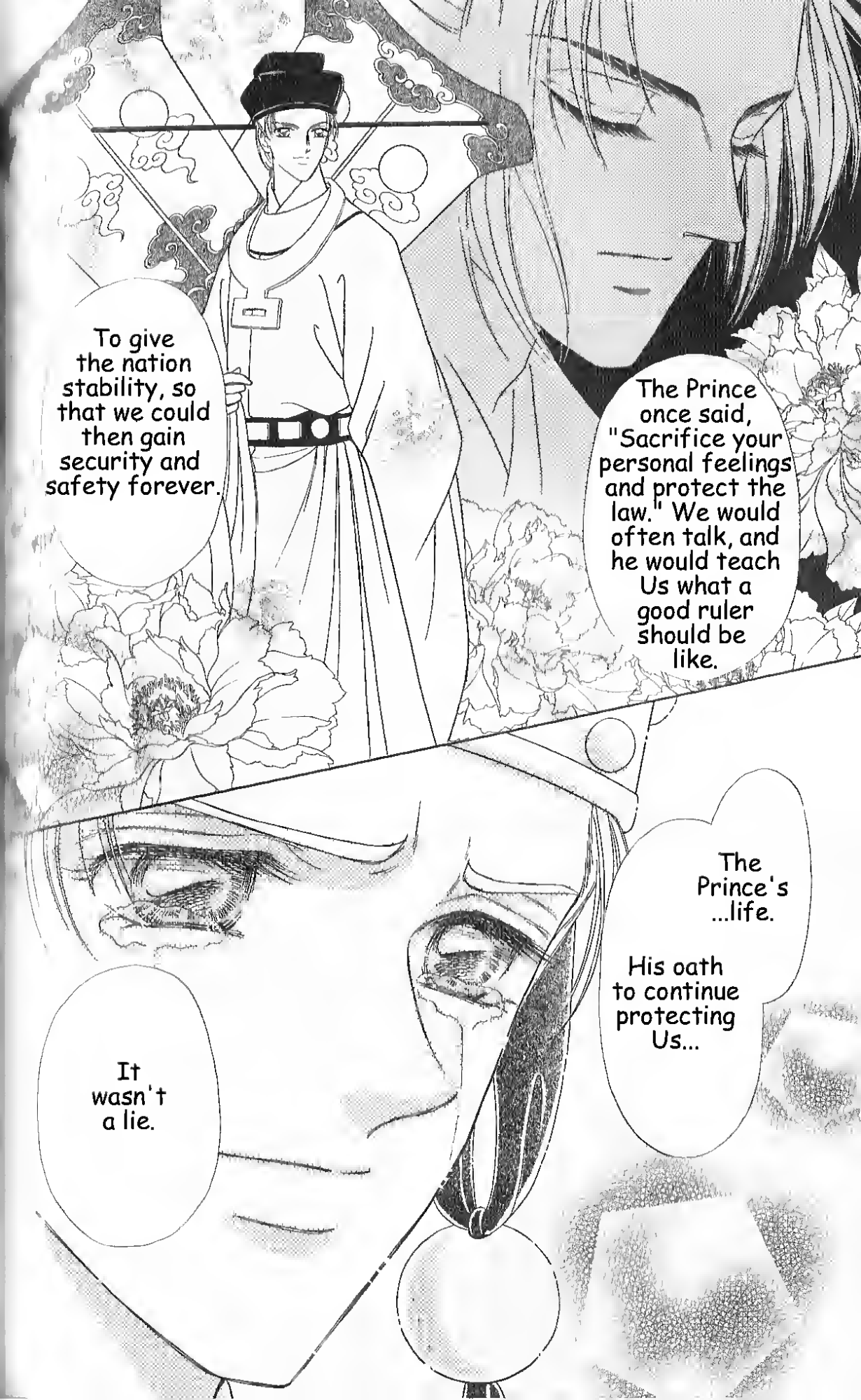

If it's you, you'll become an excellent Emperor.
Prince
If you become the Emperor, you can save those people in pain.
However, the puzzling thing is, even though this isn't the reaction of people in a good government, this is a sensible reaction after a mistake.
Please think of the feelings of the people
Bao Zheng
If you do that, you should be able to understand the Prince's thoughts.
The Lord Prince and Lord Bao both clearly understood this, which is why the Prince requested execution.

tn: Bao is being super formal, this I is used by servants.

Bao Zheng ...
We finally understand the reason you and the Prince requested the Death Penalty.
Your Majesty
It was all for Us and for the country, wasn't it?
To foolishly minimalize those in a very weak position...
We so very nearly did something horribly perilous.
If We let Our heart be sentimental and forgive the Prince, it's like saying those who died without reason and their families' regrets, anger, and sadness are all for nothing.


The ruler of a nation... is somone who must first think of the safety and happiness of his people.
Laws are there in order to insure the safety of the people.
Bending the law to suit Our own feelings is an act of betrayal against the people.
Of course We'd be letting go of the people's hearts if We did so.
In order to stop that, he chose to allow his own execution.
We have always wanted to become a wise ruler.
The Prince, who always helped me, was a very--
For him to wish his own death was more painful than anything.

tn - he doesn't finish that sentence. It was probably "important person" or something like that.


To give the nation stability, so that we could then gain security and safety forever.
The Prince once said, "Sacrifice your personal feelings and protect the law." We would often talk, and he would teach Us what a good ruler should be like.
The Prince's ...life.
His oath to continue protecting Us...
It wasn't a lie.

You have Our grati-tude.
Your Majesty...
You understood everything before We were able to. So you played the part We gave you and asked for the Prince's execution.
It isn't worth mentioning -----
You are a truely remarkable official.
Bao Zheng ...
We have something We wish to entrust to you.

This is ...!
The Emperor's Houken!?
(Treasure sword)
Should We ever refute your judgements again, show Us this sword. This is proof of Our absolute trust in you.
You are the important bridge between the people and Our self.
Relate Our will to the people and reflect back to Us their voices and lives.
From here onward, return to work at the Kaihou Office.

Really? The Emperor ....
明廉正公

tn: that sign below is the sign hanging in the courtroom of the Kaihou Office, in case you forgot.

If you are beside His Majesty,
I can also go on in peace.
Bao, so you were able to persuade the Emperor.
My Lord ...
From now on, help His Majesty in my place. I'd like you to help guide him in a good direction.
...!
Strength to reach his limits ...!
Zhan Zhao

tn: this is one of those incomplete sentences they do all the time. It's probably "give him the strength..."

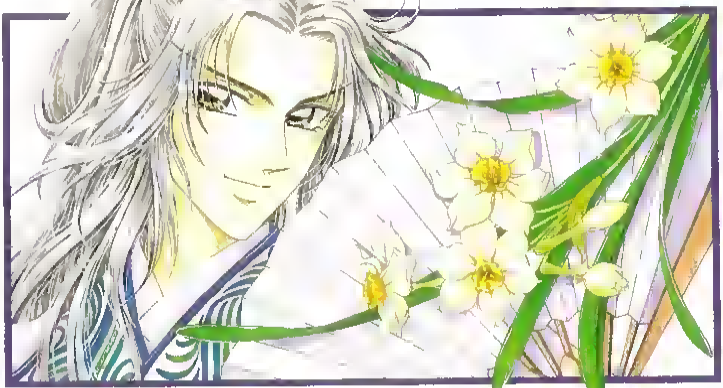
There are still those who wish to take His Majesty's life.
Be sure to take care of His Majesty.
Under-stood.
I see ...
The Prince was happy.
This time, Your Majesty's proceedings seem to have calmed the people and everyone.

!!!
On top of that, the compensation money Your Highness presented to the wounded and the families of the dead has gotten everyone loudly praising Your Majesty.
This
For the rest of Our life, We will not forget this lesson that you have taught Us and that the Prince gave his life for.
Also, from now on, in order to create a good government, We will prepare Ourself. We would like both of your cooperation.
Yes, sire
And with that--- Zhan Zhao

えっ Eh!?
!?
So that We can better understand the feelings of the people, you are welcome to come "shinobi" about again.
♡
That bastard Zhan Zhao
M-
Majesty
!?
If you don't want to, We'll tell everyone you kidnapped Us
Just a little more and I would have had Bao's downfall.
When in the world did you meet up with His Majesty?
Before I can crush Bao, first I have to deal with that bastard.
Chapter 2 end
第二話　恩仇記／完

If you feel the need to share this on other websites,
I really just ask that you leave this reference page in and
let me know where you are uploading the translations :)

ginfukurou at tehlorri dot com
(yeah, yeah, I never got around to making an email just for translations)



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I'm not in a particular group, so don't expect updates to be too frequent. I do this on the side when I can breathe between my two jobs. This is how I keep up with my Japanese practice, though.

You can check my website www.tehlorri.com/myobi/translations for detailed notes on the chapters.